

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 349  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Irvin Bernard Eskind,  
M.D., of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Irvin Bernard Eskind, a highly respected retired Nashville physician who was esteemed by his professional peers as well as his patients, and who was a well-known philanthropist; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eskind was an exemplary civic-minded Tennessean and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born January 25, 1925 in Nashville, the son of the late Florence and Herbert Eskind, Irvin Eskind was a 1945 graduate of Vanderbilt University and earned his M.D. degree at the Vanderbilt School of Medicine in 1948; he served his residency in Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital from 1948-51 and completed his residency at Vanderbilt in 1951; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eskind left his civilian practice to serve in the United States Army Medical Corps from 1951-1953; upon discharge he went to Boston where he was a Fellow in Gastroenterology at Lahey Clinic from 1953-54, but he returned to Nashville in 1954 to work at Vanderbilt and St. Thomas Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eskind served for a number of years on the Vanderbilt Board of Trust , serving on the Executive, Budget, Campaign and Hospital Committees, and the Medical Center Board, and the University's medical program consumed much of his time and attention; he and his wife Annette were major benefactors of the medical school, and the Annette and Irwin Biomedical Library, which houses Vanderbilt University Medical Center's information services and resources, is named for them, as will be the Vanderbilt-Eskind Diabetes Clinic, due to open in July 2005; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its Medical School, Dr. Eskind also supported Vanderbilt's Nursing School, the Blair School of Music, the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies and the University as a whole; he was a lifetime member of the Canby Robinson Society, which he served as President; the Friends of Blair; the Friends of the Library; and the Nursing School's Julia Hereford Society; and

WHEREAS, Irvin Eskind and his brother Richard, along with other investors, founded Hospital Affiliates International, a hospital management company; the partners began with a single 108-bed facility in Houston and, by 1977, owned 25 hospitals and managed 51 others. Dr. Eskind was also an investor in Health America, a health maintenance organization started by now Governor Phil Bredesen; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, INA Corporation of Philadelphia purchased Hospital Affiliates for \$76 million; the subsequent sale of the business by INA to HCA made that Nashville-based company the largest hospital chain in the nation, ahead of Humana, Inc. of Louisville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eskind was an active and devout member of the Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom, serving as its President; he also served on the Board and on the Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eskind served as Chairman of the Jewish Federations' major gifts division, as a member of the boards of the WPLN Foundation and the Jewish Philanthropic Fund, and as President of the Middle Tennessee Diabetes Association; he contributed his time and resources to many other causes in the Nashville community as well; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable gentleman was deeply committed to his family values of the highest order; Dr. Eskind enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Annette Shaffer Eskind, and was the proud father of Steven J. Eskind, M.D., and his wife, Laura; and Jeffrey B. Eskind, M.D., and his wife, Donna; he was the doting grandfather of Michael J., Julie B., David B., Matthew C. and Sara A. Eskind; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eskind leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional physician, philanthropist, tireless advocate for Vanderbilt

University and other worthy causes, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Irvin Bernard Eskind, M.D., reflecting fondly upon his great generosity, impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Eskind.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.